

# HF Happenings 731

South African Radio League \* Suid-Afrikaanse Radioliga  
Member Society of the International Amateur Radio Union since 1925

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You can now download your copy of HF Happenings from [www.sarl.org.za/hf\\_happenings.asp](http://www.sarl.org.za/hf_happenings.asp)

## December

- 1 - Start of "Youth on the Air" Month
- 2 to 4 - Round the Bend Camp, Swellendam
- 3 – International Day for Disabled Persons
- 3 and 4 - UK/EI DX SSB Contest; Beestekraal Festival Summer Bash
- 4 - SARL Digital Contest
- 7 - all schools close
- 8 to 31 - Witsand Christmas Market
- 10 - International Human Rights Day; Christmas Country Market, Wakkerstroom
- 10 and 11 - ARRL 10 m Contest
- 11 - SARL Youth Net
- 16 - Day of Reconciliation
- 21 - Summer Solstice
- 25 - Christmas Day; Channukah (1st Day)
- 26 - Family Day
- 27 - closing date for January 2017 Radio ZS articles
- 31 - Old Year's Eve; End of 2016 CQ Marathon and YOTA month

## December's Ultimate Event - OF9X Promotes the Christmas Spirit on the Radio Spectrum

Finland (Press Release OH2BH, from the Offices of Santa Claus in Finland, dated 19 November)

Greetings from the Land of Santa Claus, in the Far North at the Arctic Circle.

The busy yuletide season is soon upon us, and Santa is preparing his sleigh for another world tour. The old man is very busy, but fortunately, the elves are there to help him deliver the Christmas spirit to the world's children.

The Ou-Hou (OH) people are also bringing Santa to the amateur community as in many past years, utilizing some high tech to assist him. With the help of multimedia and the Internet, a dozen or so elves will operate Santa Radio, OF9X, with their own identity. As a reward for contacting several of them, your brave children, grandchildren or neighbours' children may even speak with Santa himself. Amateur Radio's future resides in our youth and Santa can be their first contact with the art. This year's activity will also pay respect to the ARRL's late President Emeritus, Jim Hayne, W5JBP, who became a SK at the time the Santa script was in making. We wish to carry on the spirit of his mission – the Big Project – in this format.

The certified reindeer driver and Laplander Pertti "Pete" Koivula, OH2BEE/OH9U, will give Santa a face and voice, tapping into his professional background as a famous actor of the Helsinki City Theatre. Pete is well known from his role in the Finnish national movie



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"The Unknown Soldier," exploring those difficult bygone times of war, still remembered by seasoned Finns.

The Santa activity's end will mark the beginning of Finland's Anniversary as a 100-year-old sovereign and independent nation.

The patron of the OF9X Santa Activity is Mr Juha Sipilä, the Prime Minister of the Republic of Finland. Mr Sipilä indicates his sincere support of Finland being the home of Santa and states, "using the latest technology to promote Santa is valuable support for Finland and helps make this Christmas a special one." He further expresses his pleasure of "welcoming an increasing number of visitors, such as those from America and China, who come to explore the treasures of Finnish Lapland by flying directly to Santa Claus Airport at the Arctic Circle."

More details will be released soon. The OF9X (Old-Father-9-Christmas) activity is supported by the Finnish Telecommunications Regulatory Authority (FICORA) and the Finnish Amateur Radio Association (SRAL), and is organized by Radio Club of Pusula, OH9W with Radio Arcala, OH8X of Oulu, the frozen North.

Note; you can request two pictures from SRAL, Annika, OH2HSJ, e-mail at [oh2hsj@sral.fi](mailto:oh2hsj@sral.fi) - 1: Prime minister Juha Sipilä and 2: Santa Claus, OH2BEE/OH9U

## WRTC

The WRTC-group has released two videos, made by James Brooks, 9V1YC. Both aim to explain the World Radiosport Team Championship, by showing the practical side of setting up more than 60 stations in field day-style and by having participants and organisers explain their fascination with the event. The present WRTC organisers hope to increase the support for the next event, which is to be held in Germany in 2018. <https://vimeo.com/wrtc2018> and <http://www.funksportwm2018.de/>

## IOTA Survey

If you need IOTA groups OC-196, OC-198 and/or OC-228, there is a quick survey to help Craig, VK5CE, plan operations there in 2017 - <https://freeonlinesurveys.com/s/hWzrlEwS>.

## South African Radio League Digital Contest

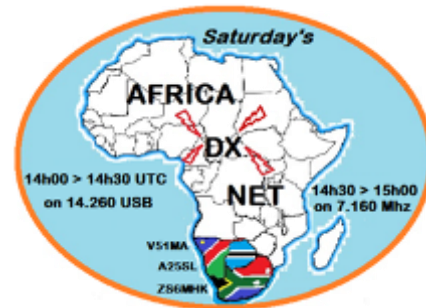
Aim: To establish as many contacts as possible between radio amateurs in Southern Africa using the PSK31 / RTTY modes. Date and Time: 13:00 UTC to 16:00 UTC on Sunday 4 December 2016. Bands: 80 metres (3 580 to 3 600 kHz), 40 metres (7 040 to 7 060 kHz) and 20 metres (14 070 to 14 099 kHz). PSK31 is preferred at the lower end of the specified frequencies, RTTY is preferred at the upper end of the specified frequencies. Please note that USB must be used at all times. Exchange: RST plus a sequential serial number starting at 001. See the 2016 Blue Book for more details

## Ten-Meter RTTY Contest

Object: Amateurs worldwide contact and exchange QSO information with other amateurs using Baudot RTTY on the 10 meter band. Any station may work any other station. The recommended baud rate is 45.45 baud with 170 Hz shift. Date and Contest Period: Sunday of the first full weekend of December 00:00 - 24:00 UTC 4 December 2016. Exchange: United States: RST and State, Canada: RST and Province. DX: RST and Consecutive serial number, starting with 001. <http://www.rttycontesting.com/ten-meter-rtty-contest/rules/>

## ARRL 10-Meter Contest

Objective: For Amateurs worldwide to exchange QSO information with as many stations as possible on the 10 meter band. Dates: Second full weekend of December. Starts 0000 UTC Saturday; runs through 2359 UTC Sunday (December 10-11, 2016). All stations operate no more than 36 hours out of the 48-hour period. Contest Exchange: W/VE stations (including Hawaii and Alaska) send RS(T) and state or province (District of Columbia stations send signal report and DC), DX stations (including KH2, KP4, etc.) send RS(T) and sequential serial number starting with 001, Mexican stations transmit RS(T) and their state, Maritime mobile stations send RS(T) and ITU Region (R1, R2 or R3). <http://www.arrl.org/10-meter>



## January

- 1 - New Year's Day; start of 2017 CQ Marathon
- 2 - Public Holiday
- 11 - All schools open
- 14 and 15 - Hunting Lions in the Air
- 20 to 22 - PEARS National VHF/UHF Contest
- 25 - Closing date February Radio ZS articles
- 28 - Summer QRP Sprint; Chinese New Year

## Swedish 5 MHz changes

Hi All,  
This latest information just in:-

Goran, SM7DLK, and Torleif, SM6YOR, report that from the end of October 2016, the Swedish Post & Telecom (PTS) regulator has been issuing temporary (6 month) experimental licenses for 5 351.5 – 5 366.5 kHz with 15 W EIRP. This replaces the previous four 3 KHz segments of 5 310, 5 320, 5 380 and 5 390 kHz that been used during the past years which now have expired.

The fee is 300 SEK (approximately R456 per period). There is still no decision if Post & Telecom will implement the WRC-15 recommendation in their national band plan. Probably not before January 2018 or when a new national band plan is released.

Cheers,  
Paul Gaskell G4MWO  
Editor, The 5 MHz Newsletter

## Old heatsink lets amateur push duty cycle

Dan Maloney, KC1DJT, writes on Hackaday about how you can up the transmitter duty cycle by using a heat sink

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## African DX

Mauritania, 5T. World traveller Vladimir, UA4WHX, is now active as 5T9VB from Nouakchott. Length of stay is unknown. Activity has been 30, 20 and 17 metres, but could be on other bands later in the week. Modes have been on CW, SSB and RTTY. QSL via UA4WHX.

Cote d'Ivoire, TU. Bertrand, DF3FS, Norbert, DJ7JC, Heye, DJ9RR, and Emil, DL8JJ, will be active as TU5MH from Cote d'Ivoire (Ivory Coast) from 22 January to 2 February 2017. They will operate CW, SSB and RTTY on 80 to 10 metres with three stations. QSL via DJ5BWD, direct or bureau and LoTW; log search and OQRS on Club Log. See <http://tu5mh.com/> for more information.

Rwanda, 9X. Harald, DF2WO, will be active from Kigali, Rwanda, with the very unusual call sign, 9XB954, sometime during February/March 2017. This call sign has already been "validated by ARRL." Activity will be on various HF bands. QSL via M00XO's OQRS. Look for more details to be forthcoming.

## African Islands

IOTA frequencies

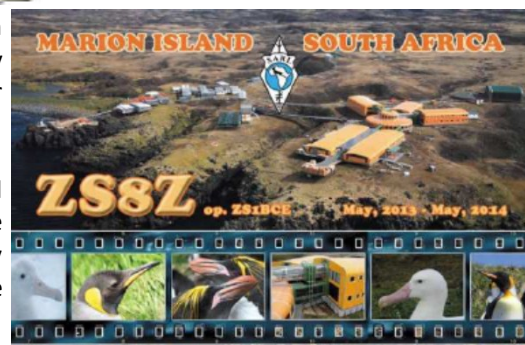
CW: 28 040 24 920 21 040 18 098 14 040 10 114 7 030 3 530 kHz

SSB: 28 560 28 460 24 950 21 260 18 128 14 260 7 055 3 760 kHz



Rodriguez Island, 3B9. By the time you read this Olof, G0CKV, will once again be active as 3B9HA from Rodriguez Island (AF-017) until 12 December. Activity will be holiday style focusing on the low bands and CW. QSL via M00XO or LoTW.

Marion Island, ZS8. A couple of sources are reporting that David, ZS1BCE, will once again return to Marion Island as a communications technician and be active as ZS8Z, possibly last December or early next year to May 2018. Activity will be limited to when time permits on various HF bands using SSB and the Digital modes. QSL via ZS1LS.



## The Joy of Data

In this BBC TV show, Dr Hannah Fry hails the contribution of Claude Shannon, the mathematician and electrical engineer.

In an attempt to solve the problem of noisy telephone lines, devised a way to digitise all information. Shannon singlehandedly launched the 'information age'. Meanwhile, Britain's National Physical Laboratory hosts a race between its young apprentices in order to demonstrate how and why data moves quickly around modern data networks. It is all thanks to the brilliant technique first invented there in the 1960s by Welshman Donald Davies - packet switching.

Watch the Joy of Data [www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episode/b07lk6tj/the-joy-of-data](http://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episode/b07lk6tj/the-joy-of-data)

Shannon, Coding and the Radio Amateur by James Miller, G3RUH, [www.amsat.org/articles/g3ruh/105.html](http://www.amsat.org/articles/g3ruh/105.html)



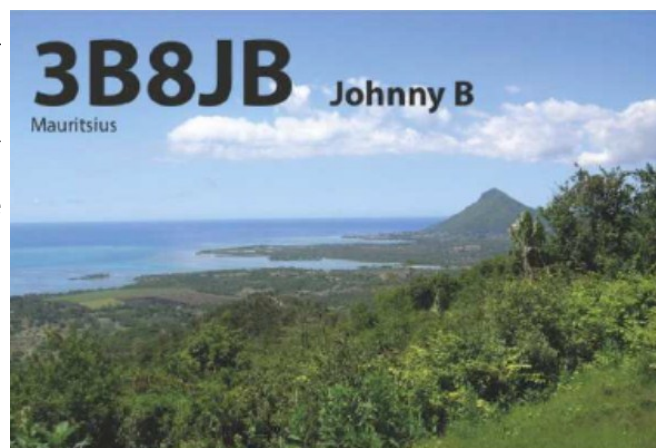
## USA's quietest town

The BBC reports on the Green Bank in the National Radio Quiet Zone, it appears despite stringent wireless restrictions, modern life is winning, gradually

There's a town in West Virginia where there are tight restrictions on mobile signal, wifi and other parts of what most of us know as simply: modern life. It means Green Bank is a place unlike anywhere else in the world. But that could be set to change.

Watch the BBC report at

[www.bbc.co.uk/news/technology-38098945](http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/technology-38098945)



Listen to the amateur radio bands long enough and you'll likely come to the conclusion that amateurs never stop talking. Of course it only seems that way and the duty cycle for a transmitter operating in one of the voice modes is likely to be pretty low. But digital modes can up the duty cycle and really stress the finals on a rig, so this field-expedient heat sink for a ham transceiver is a handy trick to keep in mind.

This hacklet comes by way of Kevin Loughin, KB9RLW, who is trying to use his "shack-in-a-box" Yaesu FT-817 for digital modes like PSK31. Digital modes essentially turn the transceiver into a low-baud modem and thus messages can take a long time to send.

Read the full Hackaday report at <https://hackaday.com/2016/11/22/old-heatsink-lets-ham-push-duty-cycle-for-digital-modes/>

## Contest Calendar

This week's contests as compiled by Bruce Horn, WA7BNM. The period covered is 14 to 21 November 2016

### QRP Fox Hunt

02:00 - 03:30 UTC 30 November

Mode: CW

Bands: 40 m Only

Classes: Single Op - fox or hound

Max power: 5 watts

Exchange: RST, state, province or country, name and power output

QSO Points: 1 point per QSO

Multipliers: (none)

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points

Submit logs by: 03:30 UTC 1 December 2016

E-mail logs to: (see rules)

Mail logs to: (none)

Find rules at: [http://www.qrpfoxhunt.org/winter\\_rules.htm](http://www.qrpfoxhunt.org/winter_rules.htm)

### Phone Fray

02:30 - 03:00 UTC 30 November

Mode: SSB

Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15 m

Classes: Single Op

Max power: 100 watts

Exchange: NA: Name and state, province or country; non-NA: Name

Work stations: Once per band

QSO Points: NA station: 1 point per QSO; non-NA station: 1 point per QSO with an NA station

Multipliers: Each US state (including KH6/KL7) once per band; Each VE province/territory once per band; Each North American country (except W/VE) once per band

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults

Submit logs by: 03:00 UTC 2 December 2016

E-mail logs to: (none)

Post log summary at: <http://www.3830scores.com>

Mail logs to: (none)

Find rules at: <http://www.perluma.com/>

[Phone Fray Contest Rules.pdf](#)

### CWops Mini-CWT Test

13:00 - 14:00 UTC and 19:00 - 20:00 UTC 30 November and 03:00 - 04:00 UTC 1 December

Mode: CW

Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 m

Classes: Single Op - QRP, low or high

Max power: HP: >100 watts; LP: 100 watts; QRP: 5 watts

Exchange: Member: Name and member no; non-Member: Name and state, province or country

Work stations: Once per band

QSO Points: 1 point per QSO

Multipliers: Each call once

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults

Submit logs by: 04:00 UTC 3 December 2016

Post log summary at: <http://www.3830scores.com>

Mail logs to: (none)

Find rules at: <http://www.cwops.org/cwt.html>

### UKEICC 80 m Contest

20:00 - 21:00 UTC 30 November

Mode: CW

Bands: 80 m Only

Classes: Single Op Connected - QRP, low or high; Single Op Unconnected - QRP, low or high

Max power: HP: 1 500 watts; LP: 100 watts; QRP: 5 watts

Exchange: 4-Character grid square

QSO Points: 1 point per 500 km; multiply QSO points by 2 if low power station; multiply QSO points by 4 if QRP station

Multipliers: (none)

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points

Submit logs by: 22:00 UTC 30 November 2016

E-mail logs to: (none)

Upload log at: <http://logs.ukaiccc.com/cgi-bin/hfenter.pl>

Mail logs to: (none)

Find rules at: <http://www.ukaiccc.com/which-contest/which-contest-ukaiccc-80-m-contests-rules>

### NRAU 10 m Activity Contest

18:00 - 19:00 UTC (CW) and 19:00 - 20:00 UTC (SSB) and 20:00 - 21:00 UTC (FM) and 21:00 - 22:00 UTC 1 December (Dig)

Mode: CW, SSB, FM, Digital

Bands: 10 m Only

Classes: (none)

Exchange: RS(T) and 6-character grid square

QSO Points: (see rules)

Multipliers: (none)

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points

Submit logs by: 15 December 2016

Upload log at: [http://ua9qcq.com/en/submit\\_log.php?lang=en](http://ua9qcq.com/en/submit_log.php?lang=en)

Mail logs to: (none)

Find rules at: <http://www.nrau.net/activity-contests/below-30mhz.html>

### NCCC RTTY Sprint

01:45 - 02:15 UTC 2 December

Mode: RTTY

Bands: (see rules)

Classes: (none)

Exchange: Serial no, name and QTH

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults

Submit logs by: 4 December 2016

E-mail logs to: (none)

Post log summary at: <http://www.3830scores.com/>

Mail logs to: (none)

Find rules at: <http://www.ncccsprint.com/rttyns.html>

### QRP Fox Hunt

02:00 UTC-03:30 UTC 2 December

Mode: CW

Bands: 80 m Only

Classes: Single Op - fox or hound

Max power: 5 watts

Exchange: RST, state, province or country, name and power output

QSO Points: 1 point per QSO

Multipliers: (none)

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points

Submit logs by: 03:30 UTC 3 December 2016

E-mail logs to: (see rules)

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Mail logs to: (none)

Find rules at: [http://www.qrpfoxhunt.org/winter\\_rules.htm](http://www.qrpfoxhunt.org/winter_rules.htm)

#### NCCC Sprint

02:30 - 03:00 UTC 2 December

Mode: CW

Bands: (see rules)

Classes: (none)

Exchange: Serial no, name and QTH

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults

Submit logs by: 4 December 2016

E-mail logs to: (none)

Post log summary at: <http://www.3830scores.com/>

Mail logs to: (none)

Find rules at: <http://www.ncccsprint.com/rules.html>

#### ARRL 160-Meter Contest

22:00 UTC 2 December to 16:00 UTC 4 December

Mode: CW

Bands: 160 m Only

Classes: Single Op - QRP, low or high; Single Op Unlimited - QRP, low or high; Multi-Single - low or high

Max operating hours: 42 hours

Max power: HP: 1 500 watts; LP: 150 watts; QRP: 5 watts

Exchange: W/VE: RST and ARRL/RAC Section; DX: RST

QSO Points: 2 points per QSO with ARRL/RAC Section; W/VE

Station: 5 points per DX QSO

Multipliers: Each ARRL/RAC Sections; Each DXCC Country (W/VE only)

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x (total section mults and total country mults)

Submit logs by: 16:00 UTC 3 January 2017

E-mail logs to: [160meter@arrl.org](mailto:160meter@arrl.org)

Upload log at: <http://contest-log-submission.arrl.org>

Mail logs to: 160 Meter Contest, ARRL, 225 Main St., Newington, CT 06111, USA

Find rules at: <http://www.arrl.org/160-meter>

#### TARA RTTY Melee

00:00 - 24:00 UTC 3 December

Mode: RTTY

Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 m

Classes: Single Op - QRP, low or high; Multi-Op - QRP, low or high; SWL

Max operating hours: 16 hours, off time in no more than 2 blocks

Max power: HP: 1 500 watts; LP: 150 watts; QRP: 5 watts

Exchange: W/VE: RST and state or province; DX: RST and serial no

Work stations: Once per band

QSO Points: 1 point per QSO

Multipliers: Each state once only; Each VE province/territory once only; Each DXCC country once only

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x (total state mults and total province mults and total country mults)

Submit logs by: 31 December 2016

E-mail logs to: (none)

Post log summary at: [http://www.n2ty.org/seasons/tara\\_melee\\_score.html](http://www.n2ty.org/seasons/tara_melee_score.html)

Mail logs to: (none)

Find rules at: [http://www.n2ty.org/seasons/tara\\_melee\\_rules.html](http://www.n2ty.org/seasons/tara_melee_rules.html)

#### Wake-Up! QRP Sprint

06:00 – 06:29 UTC and 06:30 – 06:59 UTC and 07:00 – 07:29 UTC and 07:30 – 08:00 UTC 3 December

Mode: CW

Bands: 40, 20 m

Classes: (none)

Max power: 5 watts

Exchange: RST, serial no and suffix of previous QSO ("QRP" for 1st QSO)

Work stations: Once per band per period

QSO Points: 1 point per km

Multipliers: 1 point per new station worked on each band

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total multiplier points

Submit logs by: 10 December 2016

E-mail logs to: [ru-qrp-club@mail.ru](mailto:ru-qrp-club@mail.ru)

Mail logs to: (none)

Find rules at: <http://grp.ru/contest/wakeup/333-wakeup-eng>

#### TOPS Activity Contest

16:00 UTC 3 December to 15:59 UTC 4 December

Mode: CW

Bands: 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 m

Classes: Single Op All Band - QRP, low or high; Single Op Single Band; Multi-Single

Max power: High: >100 watts; Low: 100 watts; QRP: 5 watts

Exchange: TOPS/PRO-CW Members: RST, serial no and Club Abbreviation; non-Members: RST and serial no

Work stations: Once per band

QSO Points: QSO with own country: 1 point; QSO with own continent or other continents: 2 points; QSO with TOPS/PRO-CW member: 2 bonus points; QSO between TOPS/PRO-CW members: 6 bonus points

Multipliers: Each prefix outside of entrant's country once per band

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults

Submit logs by: 11 December 2016

E-mail logs to: [contest@procwclub.ro](mailto:contest@procwclub.ro)

Mail logs to: (none)

Find rules at: <http://www.procwclub.ro/TAC%20Rules.html>

#### Ten-Meter RTTY Contest

00:00 - 24:00 UTC 4 December

Mode: RTTY

Bands: 10 m Only

Classes: Single Op; Multi-Single

Max power: 100 watts

Exchange: W: RST and state; VE: RST and province/territory; non-W/VE: RST and serial no

QSO Points: 1 point per QSO

Multipliers: Each US state (excluding KH6/KL7) and DC once; Each VE province/territory once; Each DXCC country (excluding W/VE)

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults

Submit logs by: 23:59 UTC 12 December 2016

E-mail logs to: [ten-rtty@kkn.net](mailto:ten-rtty@kkn.net)

Mail logs to: (none)

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Find rules at: <http://www.rttycontesting.com/ten-meter-rtty-contest/rules/>

SARL Digital Contest

13:00 - 16:00 UTC 4 December

Mode: PSK, RTTY

Bands: 80, 40, 20 m

Classes: (none)

Exchange: RST and QSO no

Work stations: Once per mode per band

QSO Points: (see rules)

Multipliers: (see rules)

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults

Submit logs by: 11 December 2016

E-mail logs to: [contest@sarl.org.za](mailto:contest@sarl.org.za)

Mail logs to: (none)

Find rules at: [http://www.sarl.org.za/Web3/Members/](http://www.sarl.org.za/Web3/Members/DoDocDownload.aspx?X=20151130131559djqp8afPgb.PDF)

[DoDocDownload.aspx?X=20151130131559djqp8afPgb.PDF](http://www.sarl.org.za/Web3/Members/DoDocDownload.aspx?X=20151130131559djqp8afPgb.PDF)

### Next Week's Contests

ARS Spartan Sprint, 02:00 - 04:00 UTC 6 December

QRP Fox Hunt, 02:00 - 03:30 UTC 7 December

Phone Fray, 02:30 - 03:00 UTC 7 December

CWops Mini-CWT Test, 13:00 - 14:00 UTC and 19:00 - 20:00

UTC 7 December and 03:00 - 04:00 UTC 8 December

NCCC RTTY Sprint, 01:45 - 02:15 UTC 9 December

QRP Fox Hunt, 02:00 - 03:30 UTC 9 December

NCCC Sprint, 02:30 - 03:00 UTC 9 December

ARRL 10-Meter Contest, 00:00 UTC 10 December to 24:00 UTC 11 December

SKCC Weekend Sprintathon, 12:00 UTC 10 December to 24:00 UTC 11 December



International Naval Contest, 16:00 UTC 10 December to 15:59 UTC 11 December

AWA Bruce Kelley 1929 QSO Party, 23:00 UTC 10 December to 23:00 UTC 11 December and 23:00 UTC 17 December to 23:00 UTC 18 December

CQC Great Colorado Snowshoe Run, 21:00 - 22:59 UTC 11 December

## HF Happenings

Items used with acknowledgement to the ARRL Letter, the ARRL DX News, the ARRL Contest Update, OPDX Bulletin, 425 DX Bulletin, DXNL Newsletter, WIA-News, the RSGB News, DxCoffee, Southgate ARC News, DX World and the Amateur Radio Newsletter